

Application Entitled: VARIABLE BUOYANCY BUOY FOR MOORING MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS
Serial No.: 09/305,205
Filed: 05/07/99
Applicant: Wilde et al.
Docket No.: 901033-1001
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Applicant notes with appreciation that allowable subject matter was previously found in Claim 40. Claim 40 was considered allowable provided certain rejections under Section 112 were overcome and provided all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims were added. Claim 40 has been amended to overcome the 112 rejection to add limitations of the base Claim 35 (there were no intervening claims) and it is respectfully submitted Claim 40, as amended) is in a condition for allowance, as indicated by the Examiner in the prior Office Action.

Independent Claims 30 and 35 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner during the telephone interview to more clearly set forth the invention as one that has variable buoyancy when in use onsite through removable mounting of buoyancy members to selectively change the buoyancy. Thus, the concept of "removably mounted" distinguishes over the buoyancy plates of the Corley reference that are permanently affixed at the time of manufacture of the buoy. No new matter has been added and no new search should be required by this amendment.

Please charge any underpayment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 070153 of Gardere & Wynne, L.L.P.

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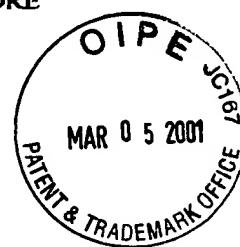
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Respectfully submitted,

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